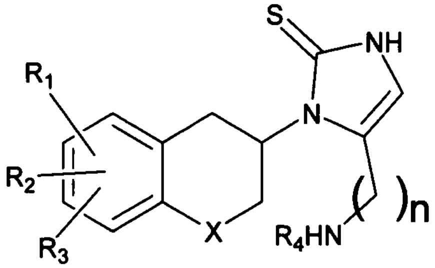
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of Formula I:



I

where R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and signify hydrogens, halogens, alkyl groups, alkyloxy groups, hydroxy groups, nitro groups, amino groups, alkylcarbonylamino groups, alkylamino groups or dialkylamino groups; R_4 signifies hydrogen, an alkyl group or an alkylaryl group; X signifies CH_2, an oxygen atom or a sulphur atom; n is 1, 2 or 3, with the proviso that when n is 1, X is not CH_2; and the individual (R)- and (S)- enantiomers or mixtures of enantiomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; wherein the term alkyl means hydrocarbon chains, straight or branched, containing from one to six carbon atoms, optionally substituted by aryl groups, alkoxy groups, halogen groups, alkoxycarbonyl groups or hydroxycarbonyl groups; the term aryl means a phenyl or naphthyl group, optionally substituted by an alkyloxy group, halogen or nitro group; and the term halogen means fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

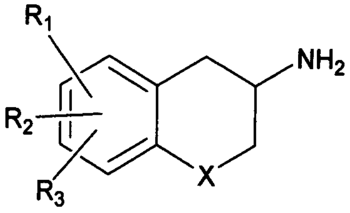
2. A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of: *(S)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(S)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(5,7-difluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-chroman-3-yl-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6-hydroxychroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(8-hydroxychroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride;

(R)-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6-methoxychroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(8-methoxychroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6-fluorochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(8-fluorochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6,7-difluorochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6,8-difluorochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(S)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6,8-difluorochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6,7,8-trifluorochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6-chloro-8-methoxychroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6-methoxy-8-chlorochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6-nitrochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(8-nitrochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-[6-(acetylamino)chroman-3-yl]-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-aminomethyl-1-chroman-3-yl-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-aminomethyl-1-(6-hydroxychroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6-hydroxy-7-benzylchroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-aminomethyl-1-(6,8-difluorochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(3-aminopropyl)-1-(6,8-difluorochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(S)*-5-(3-aminopropyl)-1-(5,7-difluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R,S)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6-hydroxythiochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R,S)*-5-(2-aminoethyl)-1-(6-methoxythiochroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-benzylaminoethyl)-1-(6-methoxychroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-5-(2-benzylaminoethyl)-1-(6-hydroxychroman-3-yl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-1-(6-hydroxychroman-3-yl)-5-(2-methylaminoethyl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; *(R)*-1-(6,8-difluorochroman-3-yl)-5-(2-methylaminoethyl)-1,3-

dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride; and *(R)*-1-chroman-3-yl-5-(2-methylaminoethyl)-1,3-dihydroimidazole-2-thione hydrochloride.

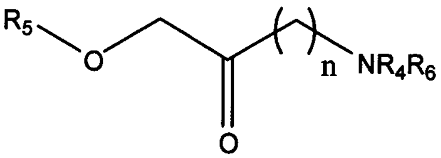
3. A process for the preparation of the individual (R)- and (S)- enantiomers or mixtures of enantiomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of a compound according to claim 1, the process comprising:

reacting individual (R)- or (S)- enantiomers or mixtures of enantiomers of a compound of Formula II



II

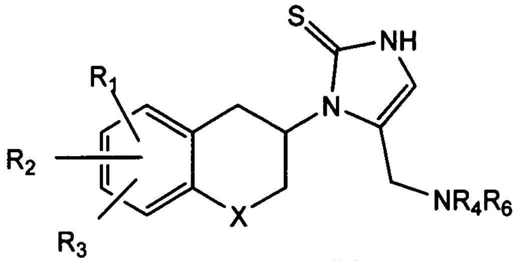
where X is CH_2, oxygen or sulphur; R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and signify hydrogens, halogens, alkyl groups, alkyloxy groups, hydroxy groups, nitro groups, alkylcarbonylamino groups, alkylamino groups or dialkylamino groups; with a compound of Formula III



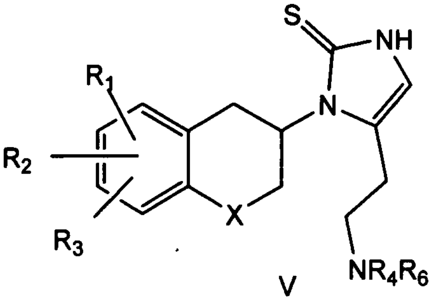
III

where n signifies 1, 2 or 3; with the proviso that when n is 1 or 2, R_4 signifies hydrogen or an alkyl group, R_5 signifies a hydroxyl protecting group and R_6 signifies an amino protecting group, but when n is 3, R_5 is defined as above but R_4 and R_6 taken together represent a phthalimido group; and with a water soluble thiocyanate salt in the presence of an organic acid in a substantially inert solvent; and

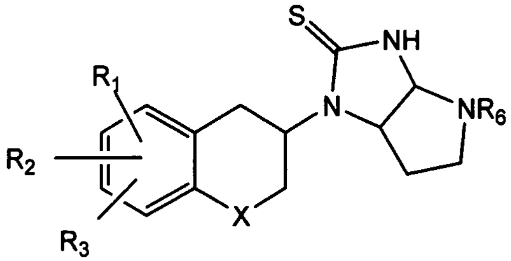
subsequently deprotecting the intermediate products of Formulas IV-VII:



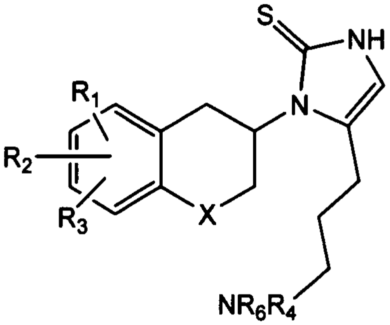
IV



V



VI



VII

wherein the water soluble thiocyanate salt is an alkali metal thiocyanate salt or a tetraalkylammonium thiocyanate salt, and wherein the term alkyl means a hydrocarbon chain, straight or branched, containing from one to six carbon atoms, optionally substituted by one or more aryl groups, alkoxy groups, halogens, alkoxycarbonyl groups or hydroxycarbonyl groups; the term aryl means a phenyl or naphthyl group, optionally substituted by an alkyloxy group, halogen or nitro group; and the term halogen means fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically effective carrier.

5. A compound according to claim 1 for use as a medicament.

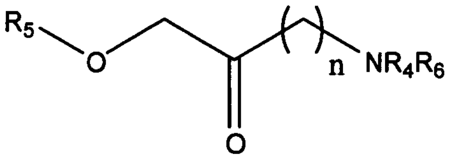
6. The use of a compound according to claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating disorders where a reduction in the hydroxylation of dopamine to noradrenaline is of therapeutic benefit.

7. The use of a compound according to claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a subject afflicted by cardiovascular disorders.

8. The use of a compound according to claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating hypertension or chronic heart failure.

9. The use of a compound according to claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in inhibiting dopamine-β-hydroxylase.

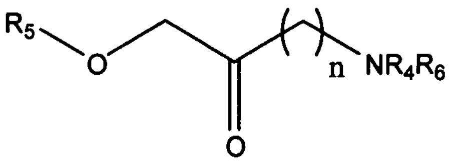
10. A compound of Formula III



III

where n signifies 2, R_4 signifies hydrogen or an alkyl group; R_5 signifies a hydroxyl protecting group and R_6 signifies an amino protecting group, wherein the hydroxyl protecting group is a trialkysilyl group, triphenylsilyl group, phenyldialkylsilyl group or an alkyldiphenylsilyl group; and the amino protecting group is an alkyl carbamate group or alkylaryl carbamate group, and wherein the term alkyl means a hydrocarbon chain, straight or branched, containing from one to six carbon atoms, optionally substituted by one or more aryl groups, alkoxy groups, halogens, alkoxycarbonyl groups or hydroxycarbonyl groups; the term aryl means a phenyl or naphthyl group, optionally substituted by an alkyloxy group, halogen or nitro group; and the term halogen means fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

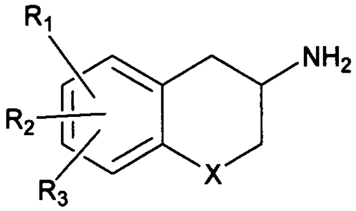
11. A compound of Formula III



III

where n signifies 3, R_5 signifies a hydroxyl protecting group; and R_4 and R_6 taken together represent a phthalimido group, wherein the hydroxyl protecting group is a trialkysilyl group, triphenylsilyl group, phenyldialkylsilyl group or an alkyldiphenylsilyl group.

12. A compound of Formula II



II

wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 may be the same or different and signify fluorine or hydrogen, with the proviso that at least one of R_1, R_2 and R_3 signfies fluorine; and where X is the same as defined in claim 1.

13. (R)-6,8-difluoro-3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzopyran-3-amine.